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THE CRADLE HONORS FELLOWES FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING ADOPTION ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYEES

EVANSTON, Ill. – The Cradle, an adoption agency based in Evanston, recently honored Fellowes, Inc., for its commitment to providing adoption assistance for its employees. Fellowes was one of 21 companies to receive The Silver Cradle Award at The Cradle's annual fundraiser at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago on Oct. 17.

"The adoption process can be emotionally and financially draining on prospective adoptive parents, so anything that companies can do to make it easier for their employees to adopt is so important," said Julie Tye, CEO of The Cradle. "We are thrilled that so many companies in our area recognize the importance of making adoption a viable option for families."

Fellowes, which is based in Itasca, has received the Silver Cradle Award multiple years in a row.

"We are proud to help our employees realize their dream of starting a family," said Susan Rapinchuk, human resources coordinator at Fellowes.

Other companies that received Silver Cradle Award this year included AbbVie, Inc.; ADM; Advocate Health Care; Aon; Barilla America, Inc.; Baxter International, Inc.; CBRE; CNA; Deloitte, LLP; Hospira, Inc.; Mead Johnson Nutrition; Northern Trust; Perkins+Will; Sidley Austin LLP; Takeda Pharmaceuticals U.S.A.; United Way of Metropolitan Chicago; USG Corporation; VML, Inc.; W.W. Grainger, Inc.; and William Blair & Company, LLC.

In addition to the corporate awards, the black-tie gala also featured dinner, dancing, a live and silent auction and an appearance by Julia Sweeney, a former cast member on *Saturday Night Live* who is also an adoptive mom. Sweeney, who lives in Wilmette, spoke about adopting her daughter, Mulan, from China in 2001. The benefit raised more than \$130,000 to support The Cradle's mission of finding forever homes for babies.

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THE CRADLE is one of the foremost adoption agencies in the country and the only adoption agency in the country with an on-site nursery. Since it was founded in Evanston in 1923, The Cradle has helped place more than 15,000 children into permanent loving homes. The Cradle's mission is to benefit children and all others touched by adoption—by compassionately delivering exceptional education, guidance and lifelong support to build, sustain and preserve nurturing families. For more information about The Cradle visit <u>www.cradle.org</u>.